

General Robert S. Foster, A.G. Sharp collection S1166

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November 18, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Foster, Robert Sanford, 1834-1903
Title	General Robert S. Foster, A.G. Sharp collection
Date	circa 1865
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S1166

Preferred Citation

General Robert S. Foster, A.G. Sharp collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Robert Sanford Foster served as part of the 13th of the Indiana Volunteer Infantry, mustered in on June 19, 1861. On July 3, 1861, Foster was commissioned by Governor Oliver P. Morton as Major of the 13th Regiment. On May 2, 1862, Foster was promoted to Colonel. The 13th Regiment fought in the Shenandoah Valley and Peninsula Campaign, and engaged in siege operations against Suffolk, Fort Wagner, Fort Sumpter, Petersburg, and Richmond. Foster led reconnaissance efforts leading to the destruction of nearly forty miles of railroad tracks between Richmond and Fredericksburg, Virginia. On June 16, 1863, Colonel Robert S. Foster was appointed Brigadier General.

The 13th Regiment was mustered out on September 5, 1865, and returned to Indianapolis on September 15th with 29 officers and 550 enlisted men. At the close of the war General Foster was appointed member of the military commission for the trial of conspirators and assassins of President Lincoln.

Robert Foster was born in Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana, on January 27, 1834. At 16 years old, he worked in the Indianapolis grocery of his uncle, Andrew Wallace, and was a member of the City Greys of Indianapolis, a military organization known as the School of the Soldier. On April 14, 1861, Foster enlisted as a private, and soon after was commissioned Captain by Governor Oliver P. Morton on April 17th. On May 1, 1861 he married Margaret R. Foust, with whom he had two children. Foster died on March 3, 1903 in Indianapolis, and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Turner, Ann. Guide to Indiana Civil War Manuscripts. Indianapolis: Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965.

Bauer, Stephen Bruce. Grand Army of the Republic, Major General Robert S. Foster. Retrieved from <http://suvchw.org/in/RSFoster.html>

Robert Sanford Foster. Retrieved from Ancestry.com, <http://www.findagrave.com>

Scope and Contents

The collection includes one item, an original handwritten letter from September 9, 1889, from Robert Sanford Foster to A.G. Sharp, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, expressing regrets to attend the 20th reunion of the "Society of the Army of the Cumberland", September 18, 1889. The original letter was handwritten by General Robert Sanford Foster on stationery of the R.S. Foster and Company, Grain Commission Merchants, established 1865.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a records donation from P. Olin Norwood on 1949/07/01.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2016/11/10 by Linda Gellert. EAD finding aid created 2016/11/10 by Linda Gellert.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Chattanooga (Tenn.)
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Personal Name(s)

- Sharp, A. G.